

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY: EUR: G. S. SPRINGSTEEN

APPROVED BY: GEORGE S. SPRINGSTEEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 117968

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRN, NATO, LY, MT, XG, XF

SUB J: LIBYANS AND MALTA FIR

CHARLES WIGGINS OF FCO APPROACHED SPRINGSTEEN AT CLOSE OF NATO MEETING IN COPENHAGEN TO OUTLINE UK DECISION ON ADMITTANCE OF LIBYANS TO FLIGHT INFORMATION CENTER IN MALTA FOR OBSERVATION PURPOSES. WIGGINS SAID THAT MINTOFF APPROACHED THIS PROBLEM IN HIS USUAL FASHION OF DEMANDING INSTANT ACTION ON SUDDENLY SURFACED ISSUES. UK FELT IT HAD VALID LEGAL REASON FOR REFUSING ADMISSION BUT BELIEVED RESULTING CONFRONTATION WOULD NOT BE WORTH IT, PARTICULARLY SINCE PURPOSE OF REQUEST ITSELF WAS NOT UNREASONABLE.

THEREFORE, UK WAS INFORMING MINTOFF THIS WEEKEND THAT HIS REQUEST WAS GRANTED ON BASIS OF PERMITTING FIFTEEN LIBYANS TO OBSERVE AT RATE OF THREE PERSONS A WEEK. LIBYANS WOULD BE DENIED ACCESS TO SECURITY INFORMATION AND MALTESE WOULD BE ASKED GUARANTEE GOOD CONDUCT OF PARTICIPATING LIBYANS.

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WIGGINS SAID UK FELT THIS ISSUE WAS PRIMARILY A UK- GOM BILATERAL
PROBLEM AND THEREFORE WAS NOT CONSULTING NATO. HOWEVER, UK
WOULD
INFORM NATO ON MONDAY.

SPRINGSTEEN SAID UK HANDLING OF PROBLEM ACCORDED WITH THINKING OF
OUR PEOPLE IN MALTA AND, AS " OLD MALTA HAND", HE FELT DECISION
AND ACCOMPANYING SAFEGUARDS WAS SOUND APPROACH UNDER THE
CIRCUM-
STANCES. ROGERS

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